

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during 1990 and 1991 so far;

(c) the action taken against the persons involved therein;

(d) the number of customs officials found involved in these cases and the action taken against them; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As reported in the Economic Times of October 31, 1991, 2 cases have been booked by the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence in 1990 in which fake firms claimed drawback by heavily over-invoicing the value of cotton blouses exported. In 1991, 2 more cases were booked by the same agency against fictitious firms who claimed drawback on exports without actually effecting any exports.

(c) and (d). Persons found involved are liable for penalty in departmental adjudication and prosecution in courts of law. Two cases have been adjudicated and personal penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs imposed on two persons. In two other cases, investigations are still in progress. One person has been arrested.

The Customs Officers found involved will be liable for disciplinary action. The cases are at present under investigation.

(e) The Customs formations have been alerted about this modus operandi and have been directed to ensure proper examination of export cargo.

Setting up of Naval base at Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu

4835. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Naval base in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Export of Beer and other Alcoholic drinks

4836. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for beer and other alcoholic drinks in Arabian and East European countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to explore the possibility of exporting beer and other alcoholic drinks to the above countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Beer and alcoholic drinks are already being exported from India to West Asian and East European countries. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) promotes exports of these items through participation in international trade fairs, development of product literature/audio visual material brand